



Big stories, fewer barriers.

Stories for your Senses

Sensory storytelling is a tactile approach to exploring stories. Through the use of sensory stimuli, people are able to experience a story through their five senses.

This can be a fun, engaging and interactive experience for all. Sensory storytelling provides an approach to telling stories in a unique way but also enhances cognitive development, communication, memory and wellbeing.

The best way to approach accessing Every Cherry's sensory stories is through these 3 steps:

Preparation

- Use the book prompts to collect the sensory items you need.
- Collect additional items to engage the senses further.
- Familiarise yourself with the text.

Sharing the Story

- Read each sentence clearly.
- Use the sensory items in relation to each sentence or key sensory-themed word.
- Build the impact of stimuli over time. For example, use sound quietly at first then increase the volume.
- Repeat the sensory story and its use of stimuli. This can be beneficial for cognitive development, communication opportunities and enjoyment.

Approach Sensory Storytelling Depending on Who You're Working With

- Get to know who you are working with.
- Some people may prefer a gradual approach to stimuli.
- Listen to the person you are working with and be guided by their reactions.
- Interact with the person you are working with. Use a range of communication approaches, such as AAC devices, signing etc, to find out preferences and to initiate interaction.
- Repeating the story and allowing it to become predictable may also be beneficial.

For the purposes of this resource, the child, young person or user will be referred to as the 'reader'.



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Stories for your Senses

A Day in the Snow

Teaching and Learning Resources

Collecting Your Items

On the first page of the text, you will be asked to collect the items you need.

Ensure you have each item to hand before you begin reading.

Perhaps you could make this into an activity through:

- Visiting the shops to collect the items.
- Going on a scavenger hunt around your home / school with your reader to collect what you need.



Fake snow



Woolly scarf



Paper

Ice



Pine sprig



Hot chocolate



In the story, it says 'snowflakes are falling from the sky. They glisten as they settle on the ground'.

Key sensory approach:

- Spread out the fake snow and look at it in a tray.
- You could add glitter to the snow and look at it glistening.
- Make patterns in the fake snow and watch how it moves.
- What symbols, signs or words would you use to describe the fake snow?
- If it is snowing, go outside and experience the snow.

Additional senses:

- Feel the snow moving between your fingers.
- Put some fake snow into the fridge – how does it feel now?



Every Symbol communication opportunities:

Use Every Symbol cue cards to extend vocabulary. Readers could choose from:

- bright or dark
- warm or cold

Additional Activities to Explore the Text

Activity 1: Create your own snowflakes and decorate a window. You could use paper plates and tissue paper. Practice cutting or tearing the tissue paper to decorate your snowflake. Using a pincer grip, practice your fine motor skills by sprinkling glitter over your snowflake to make it glisten.

Activity 2: Set up a tray with different snow themed pictures on the base of the tray. Scatter fake snow on top of the pictures. Using a straw blow the snow off the picture carefully to reveal what is underneath. Blowing into a straw is a good activity for developing speech and language skills as it encourages mouth movements and builds up muscles.

In the story it says 'I make footprints in the crisp, white snow. I hear it crunch under my boots.'

Key sensory approach:

- Scrunch up the paper in your hand. What can you hear when you scrunch it? If you rip the paper, does it make the same sound?
- Can you walk across the scrunched up paper? Does it make the does of crunching snow? Can you find any other objects that make the noise of crunching snow?
- Can you find anything else that makes a crunching or scrunching sound?
- When snow is falling, it is often very quiet. Snow makes sound seem 'muffled'. Put objects that make sound under a thick blanket. Can you guess what is making the noise?
- Listen to the soundscape, included free with the book, to hear the sounds of the snow.

Additional senses

- Take your shoes and socks off and walk in the fake snow from earlier – can you see your own footprints?
- Feel the scrunched up paper in your hands- how does it feel? Is it smooth or bumpy?



Every Symbol communication opportunities:

Use Every Symbol cue cards to extend vocabulary. Readers could choose from:

- loud or quiet
- smooth or rough

Additional Activities to Explore the Text

Activity 1: Using paint create your own footprint art. You could use white paint with glitter mixed in, then stand on black or dark paper.

Activity 2: Put on your own boots and go for a walk outside. Can you hear anything crunching under your boots? It could be sticks or leaves if you have no snow.

In the story it says the sprig of pine 'smells woody and fresh'.

Key sensory approach:

- Put the sprig of pine into a container with holes to smell it. Can you smell the pine sprig? Do you like the smell?
- Take the pine sprig out of the tub. Rub it between your fingers. Does it smell stronger?
- Fill a spray bottle with water and pine sprigs. Let the pine sprigs marinate in the water. Spray the scented water around the room to really experience its smell.
- Create different scented sprays. Use flowers, fruit or even vegetables to explore different natural accents.

Additional senses:

- Cover your eyes. Feel the pine sprig in your hands, or rub them on your skin. What does the pine sprig feel like?
- Look at how the sprigs are all different lengths and shapes. What words would you use to describe them?



Every Symbol communication opportunities:

Use Every Symbol cue cards to extend vocabulary. Readers could choose from:

- sweet or woody
- fresh or old
- smooth or rough
- long or short

Additional Activities to Explore the Text

Activity 1: Make a perfume. Collect flower petals. You could use petals from the same flower or a combination of different petals. Let the petals marinate. Spray your scented water / perfume. Do you like the smell?

Activity 2: Create a blind smell test with different tubs of smells. Can the reader find the sprig of pine amongst the options?

Please note: ensure readers do not have allergies when smelling and touching the pine sprig.

In the story, it says '*the snow feels cold and wet in my hands*'.

Key sensory approach:

- Touch the ice.
- Think carefully about how to build up this stimulus. Start by wrapping the ice on a towel to feel how cold it is. Next, hold the ice wearing gloves. Slowly build up to touching the ice itself, adding the sensory sensation of wet textures too.
- Explore the ice in different ways. For example, rub the ice on skin, put hands in a bowl of ice, hold an ice cube wearing gloves, hold an ice cube without gloves, etc.
- Use different sized pieces of ice for the reader to experience touching or holding.
- Is the ice warm or cold? Is it smooth or rough?

Additional senses:

- Place the ice in a tray and keep checking back on it over a period of time. Watch how it changes and see how long it takes for it to melt.



Every Symbol communication opportunities:

Use Every Symbol cue cards to extend vocabulary. Readers could choose from:

- hard or soft
- smooth or rough
- warm or cold
- dry or wet

Additional Activities to Explore the Text

Activity 1: Make sensory ice cubes.

Collect sensory items such as flowers, herbs or fruit. Place the items into an ice cube tray. Place the tray into the freezer for a few hours. Pop out the ice cubes and enjoy them in sensory play.

Activity 2: Put a small snowman figure (or a favourite toy figurine) inside a container. Fill it with water. Put the container into the freezer. Wait for a few hours for it to freeze. Remove the ice from the container. Use different pieces of equipment to break the ice, such as a pipette and warm water, a small hammer or even a potato masher. Can you get the snowman out of the ice and free it?

In the story, the hot chocolate tastes '**creamy and sweet**'.

Key sensory approach:

- Taste the individual ingredients that make a hot chocolate: a small amount of chocolate, milk and water. Do you like the taste of the ingredients? What do they taste like? Which is your favourite?
- Make your own hot chocolate! Make sure to ask a grown up for help. Let the hot chocolate cool before drinking. Use a straw to drink the hot chocolate if needed.
- What words / symbols or signs could you use to describe your hot chocolate. Would you give it the 'Thumbs Up' or 'Thumbs Down'?

Additional senses:

The hot chocolate is warm in the story.

- Put your hands around a mug of hot chocolate. Then put your hands around a glass of ice. Which one do you like best?
- Smell the hot chocolate. Do you like the smell of it?



Every Symbol communication opportunities:

Use Every Symbol cue cards to extend vocabulary. Readers could choose from:

- warm or cold
- dry or wet

Additional Activities to Explore the Text

Activity 1: Taste a variety of hot chocolate flavours, such as mint, caramel or vanilla. Vote for your favourite flavour!

Activity 2: Add your own hot chocolate toppings. Collect squirty cream, chocolate flakes, sprinkles and marshmallows. Taste test each of the ingredients. Which ones do you like best? Which ones will you add to your hot chocolate?

Please note: Ensure readers do not have allergies when tasting hot chocolate and take care with the temperature of the drink.

Finishing the Story

We end our story with a sensory hug, using the woolly scarf, to symbolise the story being over. Use a woolly scarf to make this sensory hug feel more impactful. Put the woolly scarf on and feel its weight.



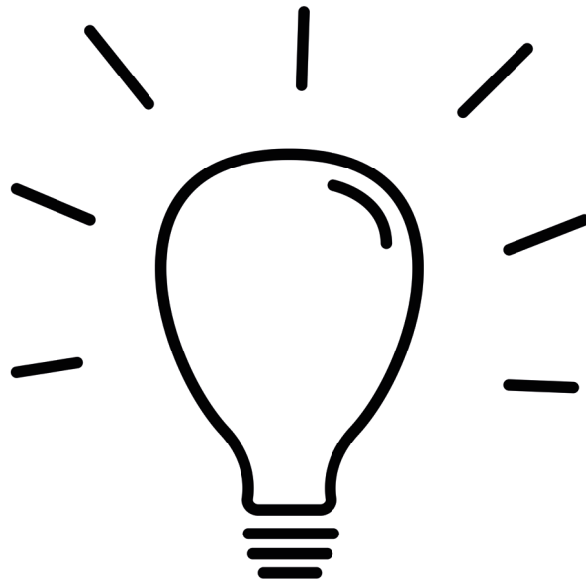
Every Symbol communication opportunity:

Use Every Symbol cue card to extend vocabulary.

- finished

Extra ideas:

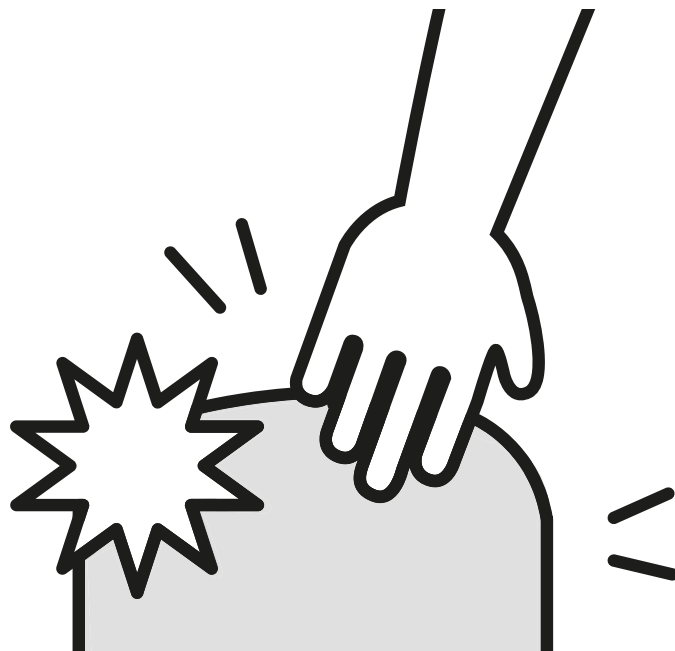
- Create a role play area or tuff tray with a snowy day scene for readers to explore.
- Create a snowy scene picture using the fake snow and sprigs of pine to create snowy trees.
- Create a snow-themed habitat. What animals would live in the snow? Add toy animals to the habitat. Perhaps you could include a range of animals to choose from. Do animals that live in the snow have fur coats to keep them warm?
- Get out the fancy dress box or collect a range of clothing. Imagine it is snowing outside. What clothes would you wear to keep warm? Can you dress in them?
- In the story there is a snowman. Play winter or snow themed songs. How many can you find? Can you dance along?
- Use your crinkled up paper to make snow balls. Can you throw your snowballs at a target on the wall or throw them at each other, focusing on gross motor skills.
- Enjoy listening to this story again or another snow themed story with your hot chocolate.



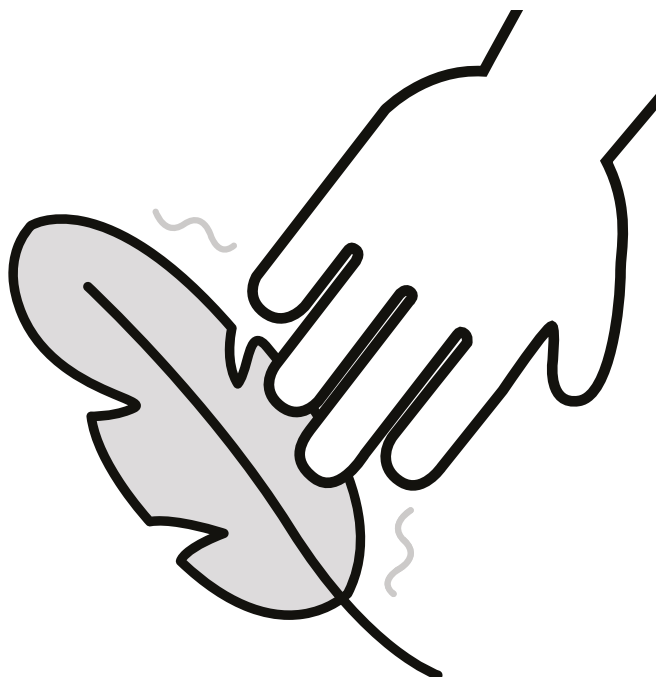
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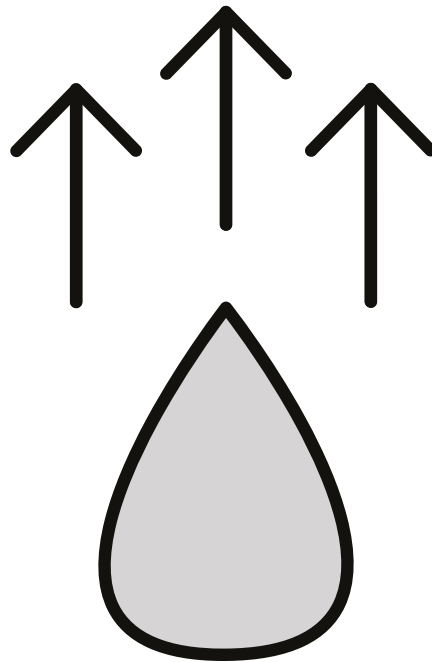
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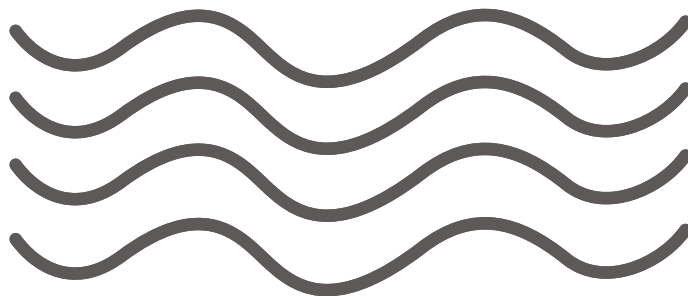
Hard



Soft



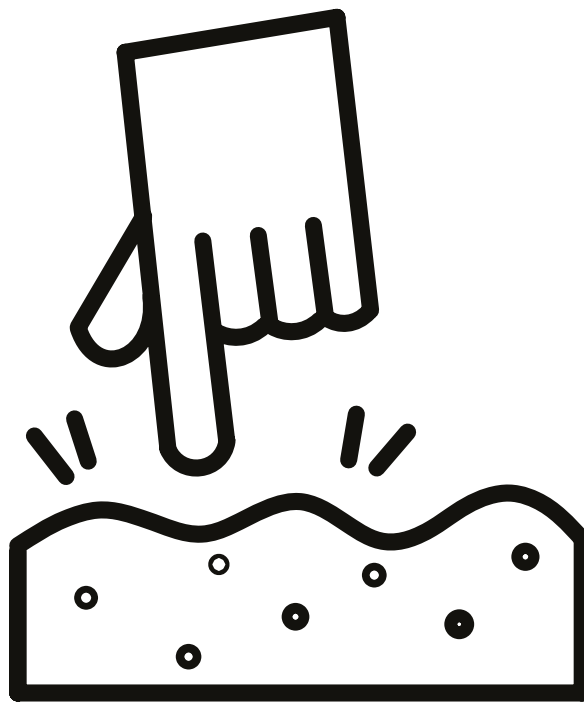
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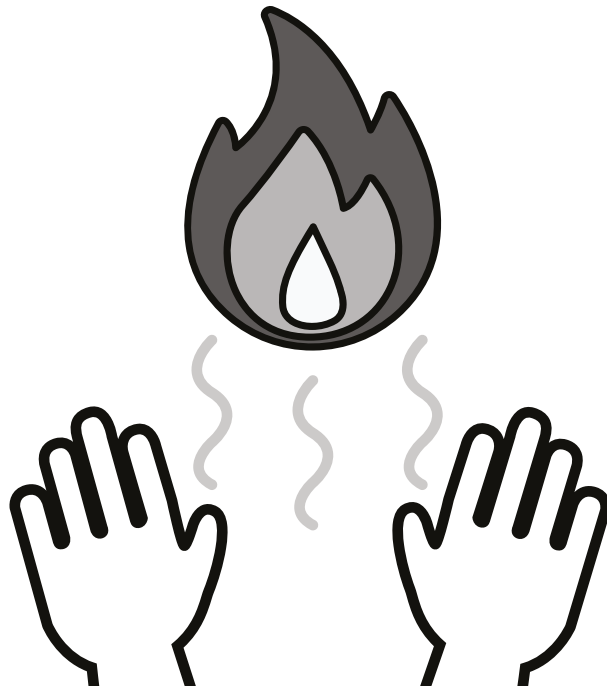
Wet



Smooth



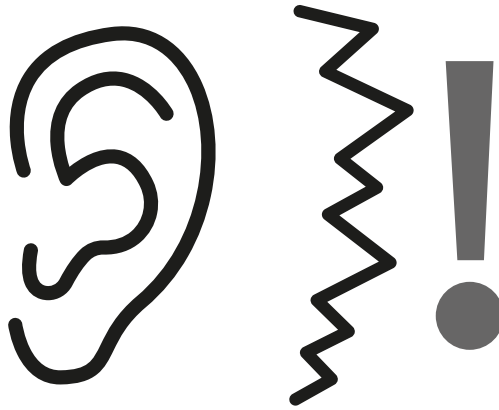
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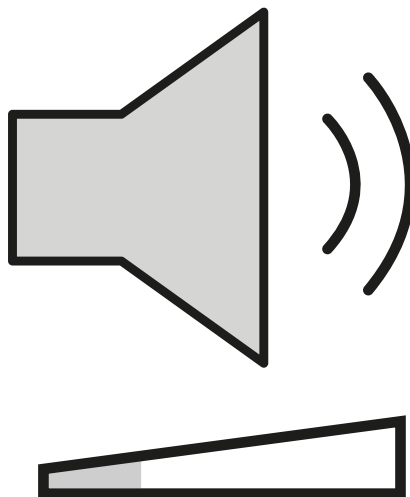
Warm



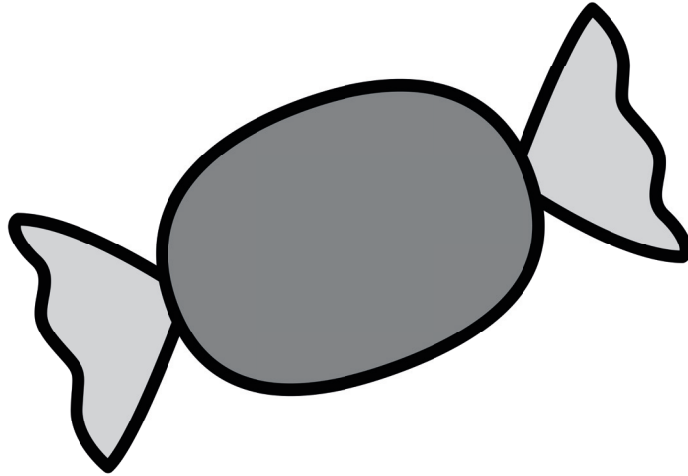
Cold



Loud



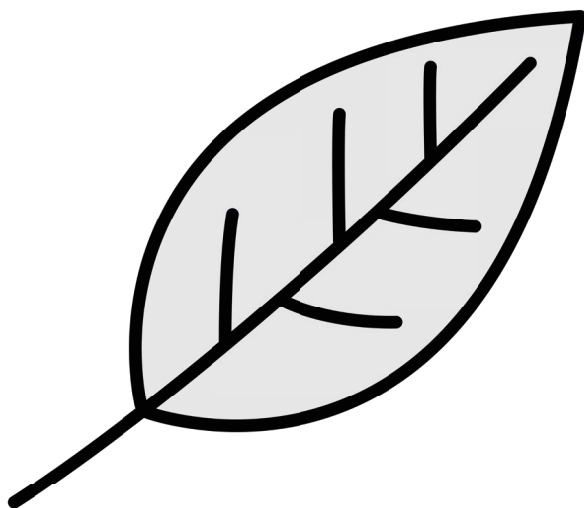
Quiet



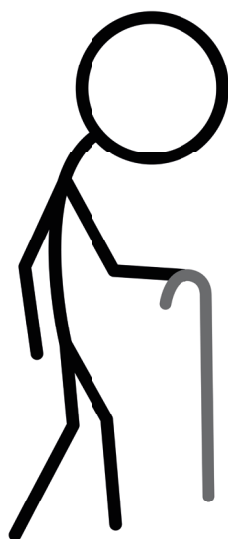
Sweet



Woody



Fresh



Old



Long



Short



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*This Teaching and Learning Resource has been written by
Katie Corrigan as part of Every Cherry Publishing.*

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